

InitializeCriticalSection

Unsafe low memory exceptions on some platforms. Always delete critical section before reinitializaing.

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Part "Original Cigital Coding Rule in XML"

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Attack Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Denial of Service		
Vulnerability Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Threading and synchronization problem• Unhandled Exception		
Software Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Sections		
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• winbase.h		
Description	<p>The InitializeCriticalSection function initializes a critical section object.</p> <p>In low memory situations (W2K and earlier), InitializeCriticalSection can raise an exception. However, the fact that InitializeCriticalSection raises an exception in low memory is just a design flaw. But it turns out that you can't catch it anyway since the exception is not raised in an exception-safe manner! (The critical section object is left in a corrupted state.) So you can't catch it and do anything meaningful. End result is the same: Don't catch it.</p> <p>A critical section object must be deleted before it can be reinitialized. Initializing a critical section that has already been initialized results in undefined behavior.</p> <p>Deadlock problems are always a possibility and concern with object synchronization. The appropriate approach for ensuring deadlock conditions don't occur is beyond the scope of this API; if this is to be considered a security vulnerability issue.</p>		
APIs			
Method of Attack	An attacker could generate memory exceptions and lead to application DOS problems.		
Exception Criteria	None known.		
Solutions	Solution Applicability	Solution Description	Solution Efficacy

1. <http://buildsecurityin.us-cert.gov/bsi-rules/35-BSI.html> (Barnum, Sean)

	Applicable to all occurrences.	Ensure that DeleteCriticalSection occurs before re-InitializeCriticalSection.	Effective
	Applicable to all occurrences.	Verify, from an algorithmic point of view that deadlock scenarios are avoided.	Effective
Signature Details	void InitializeCriticalSection(LPCRITICAL_SECTION lpCriticalSection);		
Examples of Incorrect Code	<pre>... InitializeCriticalSection(&cs_1); EnterCriticalSection(&cs_1); l++; LeaveCriticalSection(&cs_1); InitializeCriticalSection(&cs_1); EnterCriticalSedtion(&cs_1); m++; LeaveCriticalSection(&cs_1); ...</pre>		
Examples of Corrected Code	<pre>... InitializeCriticalSection(&cs_1); EnterCriticalSection(&cs_1); l++; LeaveCriticalSection(&cs_1); DeleteCriticalSection(&cs_1); InitializeCriticalSection(&cs_1); EnterCriticalSedtion(&cs_1); m++; LeaveCriticalSection(&cs_1); ...</pre>		
Source References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/default.asp?url=/library/en-us/dllproc/base/initializecriticalsection.asp² The Old New Thing³ (2005). 		
Recommended Resource			
Discriminant Set	Operating System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows 	
	Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C C++ 	

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1. <mailto:copyright@cigital.com>